

**Morgan County Commission Meeting  
January 17, 2018**

**Members present:**

Commissioner Joel Tuttle, President  
Commissioner Robert Ford  
Commissioner Ken Reed

**Also present:** Lawrence Thomas; County Administrator, Kim Nickles, County Clerk, Peggy Oakes, Commission Admin. Assistant

**Public present:** See attached sign in sheet

The meeting was opened by Kimberly Nickles, Honorable County Clerk, at 9:30 a.m.

**Administration Items**

**Approval of meeting minutes**

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the January 2<sup>nd</sup>, and January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting minutes.

Motion was seconded, President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea Motion carried.

**Assessor's Exonerations**

**Clerical Error- Exonerations**

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the following exonerations, as not objected to by the Assessor due to clerical errors made by that department: Sharon McManus, tax year 2015, Sharon McManus, tax year 2016, James Hoopengardner, tax year 2016, Dustin Percy, tax year 2016, George O'Bier, tax year 2016, Tonya Hill, tax year 2017.

Motion was seconded. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea Motion carried.

**Taxpayer Error – 1 Exoneration**

Commissioner Ford made a motion to deny Judy Talbert's exoneration due to taxpayer error.

Motion was seconded. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

**Taxpayer Error – 1 Exoneration**

President Tuttle made a motion to table Harold & Wanda Messer's exoneration for the next meeting. County Commission to contact Harold & Wanda Messer and have them come into the next meeting.

Motion was seconded. Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

**Homestead Property Tax Exemption**

Commission Tuttle made a motion to approve the following petitions for review of denials made by the Assessor homestead Property Tax Exemptions: Approve Kevin Rasmussen, Denied Lester Henry, Jr.: and to table the petition of Stephen Qualls for the next meeting.

Motion was seconded. Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

County Commission to contact Stephen Qualls and have him come into the next meeting.

**Appointment for Sallie Purcell to replace John Douglas on the Morgan County Library Board of Trustees for the duration of Douglas current term.**

President Joel Tuttle made a motion to appoint Sallie Purcell to replace John Douglas for the remainder of his term on the Moran County Library Board of Trustees.

Motion was seconded. Commissioner Ford voted yea, President Tuttle voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried

**Re-appointment of James Ruffle to the Civil Service Commission**

Commissioner Reed made a motion to re-appoint James Ruffle to the Civil Service Commission.

Motion was seconded. Commissioner Reed voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, President Tuttle voted yea. Motion carried

**Agenda Items:****Estate of Steve Yost**

After hearing arguments from counsel for both parties, President Tuttle made a motion made to disallow the objection and stay the case with the will applied as written.

Motion was seconded. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted Nay.

**Thomas Butcher with Potomac Edison**

Did not appear

**Request of funds for aerial photography in Morgan County by Stefanie Allemong**

Ms. Allemong stated that this is a Regional Project with Hampshire County. The cost would be \$16,000.00 to \$19,000.00 dollars over a 2 year budget and the cost is per square mile of photography. This project should start in March and be done in April before the foliage comes out.

The Commission has requested Ms. Allemong to create a document with terms and conditions with Hampshire County. A MOU with Hampshire County to be presented at the next Commission Meeting. County Administrator Larry Thomas will assist Ms.

Alleamong with documentations. Commissioner Bob Ford made a motion to approve moving forward with project for \$16K to \$19K.

Motion was seconded. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea Motion carried.

#### **Heather Tyler – Employee issues with salaries**

Ms. Tyler expressed her disappointment in the way jobs and salaries are administered by the Commission Office, citing examples of inconsistency.

She stated that a pay scale had been used in the past, but was discontinued; along with a Wage and Benefits Review Board, which has also fallen into disuse.

There was discussion of the size of salary increases, and the potential to use cost of living adjustments going forward.

County Administrator Larry Thomas offered to work with Ms. Tyler to create a more consistent policies and procedures for these processes. Larry Thomas, County Administrator will work with the Wage and Review Board.

Commission Ford apologized for not calling the County Clerk's Office to open the meeting on Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, with the Assessor's Office, but it did go into Executive Session.

#### **Lease extension for Valley Health**

County Administrator Larry Thomas went over the terms and conditions proposed by Valley Health for renewing their Lease for Dr. Hasham's office on Gayle Lane through 12/31/18. President Tuttle made a motion to allow Larry Thomas to sign final letter.

Motion was seconded. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea Motion carried.

#### **MOU with Mineral County on use of Purslane radio tower**

MOU between Morgan and Mineral Counties for use of Morgan County's Purslane tower for Mineral County radio equipment was signed by Mineral County. President Tuttle made a motion to sign MOU and return a signed copy to Mineral County.

Motion was seconded. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea Motion carried.

#### **Letter of Support for Bath grant application for streetscape improvement**

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the Letter of Support drafted for the Town of Bath's grant application for continued funding for streetscape improvement. Commissioner Ford gave thanks to Larry Lower for all that he has done in the town.

Motion was seconded. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

#### **Industrial Park sewer charges**

Commission Ford stated that there are two (2) MOU's one with Warm Springs Public Service District (WSPSD) of Berkeley Springs; the other with the Morgan County Economic Development Authority (EDA). The terms of the 2 MOUs may be contradictory and if so, should be resolved.

County Administrator Larry Thomas stated he will have something to present to the Commission at the next meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

Motion made to have Administrator Thomas present on this matter to the Commission at its next meeting.

Motion seconded. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

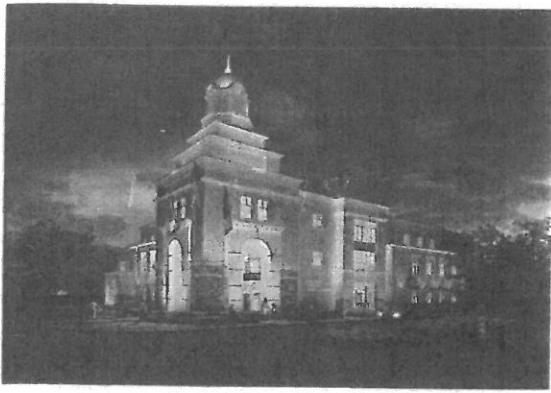
Motion seconded. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried.

### **Administrator's Item - Community Center**

County Administrator Larry Thomas summarized discussions held between himself, the Morgan County Board of Education, Morgan County Economic Development Authority, Boys and Girls Clubs of the Eastern Panhandle, Starting Points, legal counsel and Community Action Partnership of Moorefield, WV., regarding the issue of ownership of the Green Street Elementary School building deeded to the County by the Board of Education. After much discussion, it was agreed that issues with the current deed needs to be resolved in order possibly to market the building to private parties. The Commissioners agreed that Administrator Larry Thomas should proceed with his discussions, report back to the Commission; and that the Commissioners will discuss all options further.

### **Recess**

President Tuttle made a motion to recess the meeting. President Tuttle voted yea, Commissioner Ford voted yea, and Commissioner Reed voted yea. Motion carried



Morgan County Commission  
77 Fairfax Street, Room 101  
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411  
304-258-8540

**- COMMISSIONERS-**

Joel Tuttle  
134 Ridgewood Trail  
Berkeley Springs  
WV 25411  
304-258-7958

Robert Ford  
9 Barbecue Drive  
Berkeley Springs  
WV 25411  
304-258-4178


Ken Reed  
4253 Martinsburg Rd  
Berkeley Springs  
WV 25411  
304-258-8540


January 2, 2018

**COURT ORDER**

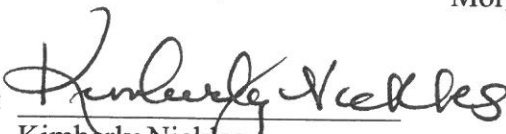
The Morgan County Commission hereby appoints **Sallie Purcell** to replace the vacated seat by John Douglas on the **MORGAN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES** to serve a five year term.

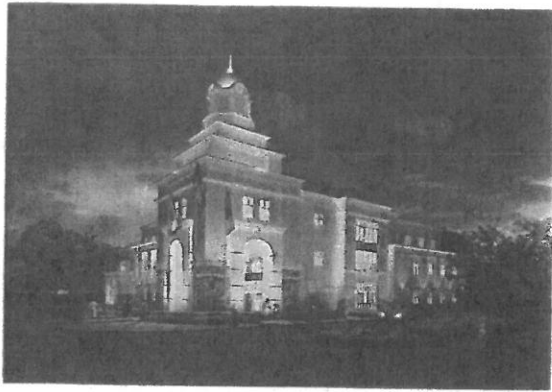
This appointment is effective immediately and will expire June 30, 2020.

  
Joel Tuttle, President  
Morgan County Commission

  
Robert Ford  
Morgan County Commission

  
Ken Reed  
Morgan County Commission

ATTEST:   
Kimberly Nickles  
Clerk of the County Commission



Morgan County Commission  
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304-258-4178


Ken Reed  
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WV 25411  
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January 8, 2018

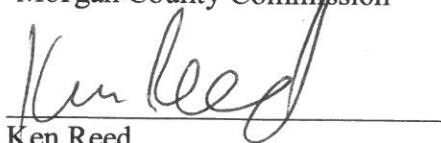
**COURT ORDER**

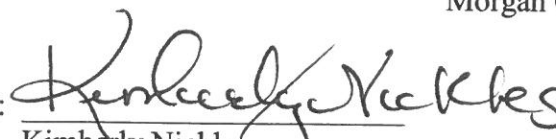
The Morgan County Commission hereby re-appoints **James Riffle** to the CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION as a representative for the Deputy Sheriff's Association.

This appointment is effective immediately and will expire January 16, 2022.

  
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Joel Tuttle, President  
Morgan County Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Ford  
Morgan County Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Reed  
Morgan County Commission

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Nickles  
Clerk of the County Commission



# Morgan County Commission

## MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

DATE: 1-17-18		Sheet:      Of:		
NO.	NAME	REPRESENTING	PHONE #	E-MAIL ADDRESS
1	Lois Kiley	CITZ		
2	Ton Kiley	CITZ		
3	Connie S. West			
4	Lester H. West			
5	Aosaki West			
6	Mary Ann West			
7	Rubel S. Day	MARY ANN WEST CO. 11/15/00		
8	Eric Bland	Yout		
9	Lewie West			
10	Stephanie Henry			
11	Frank Strader			
12	Travis Strader			
13	Heather Tyler			
14	Larry Lower	Town of Bath		
15	Trish Strader	media		
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